

New Faces in the S-3 Shop
By Capt. William Ward
Fires Bde. Chemical Officer

After just over four months of deployment, the Fires Brigade is seeing some new faces in our S-3 Shop. Managing operations and activities of the Fires Brigade, S-3 is always bustling with activity and our new personnel are definitely a welcome addition.

In the past two months, Capt. Jared Sutton, Master Sgt. Wenseslao Huerta, Pfc. Jonathan Cook, and Pfc. Eduardo Gutierrez have joined the team and immediately found their niche.

While Sutton, brigade liaison officer, may be new to the S-3, he is no stranger to the brigade. Prior to coming to our headquarters March 10, Sutton was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, a vital part of the Fires Brigade.

Sutton has spent the last three years in the Deep Strike Battalion in various staff positions and finally as the commander for Battery B, "Black Knight," 2-20 FA. He is married to the former Miss Jodi Brooks. He and his wife have two sons, Trajan, 6, and Ian, 2.

Another addition to the S-3 and the Fires Bde. is Master Sgt. Wenseslao Huerta.

Master Sgt. Huerta was stationed with the 1st Infantry Division in Germany and deployed with them to Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He has served in the Army for more than 21 years and his vast experience has already proved an invaluable asset to the S-3 shop.

Huerta is currently working as one of the operations sergeants supporting the tactical operations center. His new point of view provides a different look on how we run

our day to day operations. He is married to the former Miss Sandy Volkman and has 2 children, Kimberly, 10, and Joseph, 20 months.

Pfc. Jonathan Cook and Pfc. Eduardo Gutierrez have joined the Fires Brigade straight from their advanced individual training at Fort Sill, Okla. They have both assumed duties in the operations center operating radios, computer systems and various other tasks necessary to keep our headquarters running. They are learning quickly and are already valuable assets to the S-3 section.

Last, we say goodbye to our good friend and veteran Battle Captain, Capt. Ali Kahn-Hernandez. He is now using his expertise and skills as the assistant operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery. We'll miss having him around the TOC, but he'll be in good hands with the Deep Strike battalion. Good luck to Kahn and best wishes for him in the future.

Faces will continue to change throughout this deployment. With each new person, the S-3 shop gains new experience and additional assets that allow us to accomplish our mission.

Every Soldier here is a valued member of the team. Working together we will ensure everyone stays safe, accomplish the mission, and returns home to their loved ones.